IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following claims.

Claim 1-42 (Canceled)

43. (New) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid in a sample, comprising the steps of amplifying the target nucleic acid using a real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction and detecting the product of said polymerase chain reaction by optical detection,

wherein said real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction is carried out in the presence of:

a thermostable DNA polymerase suitable for temperature cycling between high and low temperatures;

a detergent;

and an effective amount of at least one anti-foam reagent that does not substantially inhibit the action of the polymerase.

44. (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is a reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction.

45 (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein said thermostable DNA polymerase is selected from the group consisting of Taq, Tne, Tma, VENT®, DEEPVENT®, Pfu and Pwo.

46. (New) The method according to claim 43, comprising detecting said product using a probe labeled with a detectable label.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein said detectable label is a fluorescent dye.

48. (New) The method according to claim 46, comprising detecting said product using a fluorescent nucleic acid-binding dye.

49, (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is carried out in the presence of an effective amount of at least two anti-foam reagents.

50. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein said anti-foam agent is selected from the group consisting of IS20-US, AF, FO-I 0, 0-30, SE-15, and Antifoam B.

51. (New) The method according to claim 49, wherein said at least two anti- foam reagents are selected from the group consisting of IS20-US, AF, FO-10, 0-30, SE-15, and Antifoam B.

52. (New) A composition for quantifying a target nucleic acid by real·time PCR, comprising (a) at least one primer molecule that hybridizes to the target nucleic acid; (b) nucleotide triphosphates; (c) a thermostable DNA polymerase suitable for temperature cycling between high and low temperatures; (d) a detergent; and (e) an effective amount of at least one anti· foam reagent that does not substantially inhibit the action of said thermostable DNA polymerase.

53. (New) A composition according to claim 52, comprising at least two anti·foam reagents.

54. (New) A composition according to claim 52, wherein said anti· foam agent is selected from the group consisting of I 520·U8, AF, FG·IO, 0·30, 8E·15, and Antifoam B.

55. (New) The composition according to claim 53, wherein said at least two anti·foam reagents are selected from the group consisting of I 520·U8, AF, FG·IO, 0·30, 8E·15, and Antifoam B.

56. (New) The method according to claim 43 wherein said polymerase chain reaction is carried out in a sample chamber of a device comprising a plurality of said sample chambers.

57. (New) The method according to claim 56, wherein each of a plurality of said sample chambers of said device contains reagents suitable for detecting a target nucleic acid.

58. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein a plurality of sample chambers of said device contains reagents suitable for detecting different target nucleic acids.

59 (New). The method according to claim 58, further comprising detecting the amplified products in said sample chambers by optical detection.

60. (New) The method according to claim 59, comprising detecting said amplified products using a probe labeled with a detectable label.

61. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein said detectable label is a fluorescent dye.

62. (New) The method according to claim 59, comprising detecting said amplified products using a fluorescent nucleic acid·binding dye.